

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION

TITLE 13, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, DIVISION 2, CHAPTER 2
AMEND ARTICLE 22, SECTIONS 811-818

LIGHTING EQUIPMENT - WARNING LAMPS (CHP-R-01-02)

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) proposes to amend regulations in Title 13, California Code of Regulations, related to requirements for warning lamps for emergency vehicles and special hazard vehicles.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Section 26103 of the California Vehicle Code (VC) authorizes the CHP to adopt regulations establishing standards and specifications for, among other items, lighting equipment. Standards for warning lamps for emergency vehicles and special hazard vehicles are contained in Sections 810 through 818, Title 13, California Code of Regulations (13 CCR).

The current standards refer to specific technologies utilized in lighting devices. These specific technologies were intended to be descriptive of the type of lighting device to which the standards applied, and were representative of the types of lighting devices available and in common usage at the time the standards were adopted.

Lighting technology has progressed rather rapidly in the decades since the standards were originally adopted, and a number of additional technologies have been successfully employed in lighting devices.

The CHP now proposes to amend these standards to clarify that the standards apply to all warning lamps, regardless of technology employed, and that any suitable technology may be employed in such lamps provided the applicable standards are met.

Additionally, the CHP proposes to amend the standards for warning lamps for undercover emergency vehicles. Currently, regulations specify requirements for the required steady red warning lamp. This proposal will add requirements for optional red, amber and blue warning lamps for such vehicles.

The CHP also proposes to make other clarifying and nonsubstantive changes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any interested person may submit written comments on this proposed action via facsimile at (916) 446-4579, by email to cvsregs@chp.ca.gov, or by writing to:

CHP, Enforcement Services Division
Commercial Vehicle Section
ATTN: Mr. Jack Schwendener
P. O. Box 942898
Sacramento, CA 94298-0001

Written comments will be accepted until 4:45 PM, May 6, 2002.

No public hearing has been scheduled. If any person desires a public hearing, a written request must be received by the CHP, Commercial Vehicle Section, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period.

AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

The CHP has available for public review an initial statement of reasons for the proposed regulatory action, the information upon which this action is based (the rulemaking file), and the proposed regulation text. Requests to review or receive copies of this information should be directed to the CHP at the above address, by facsimile at (916) 446-4579 or by calling the CHP, Commercial Vehicle Section at (916) 445-1865. Facsimile requests for information should include the following information: the title of the rulemaking package, the requester's name, proper mailing address (including city, state and zip code), and a daytime telephone number in case the information is incomplete or illegible.

The rulemaking file is available for inspection at the California Highway Patrol, Commercial Vehicle Section, 444 North Third Street, Sacramento. Interested parties are advised to call for an appointment.

All documents regarding the proposed action are also available through our web site at www.chp.ca.gov/regulations.

Any person desiring to obtain a copy of the adopted text and a final statement of reasons may request them at the above noted address. Copies will also be posted on our web site.

CONTACT PERSON

Any inquiries concerning the written materials pertaining to the proposed regulations should be directed to Mr. Jack Schwendener or Mr. Gary Ritz, CHP, Commercial Vehicle Section at (916) 445-1865. Inquiries regarding the substance of the proposed regulations should be directed to Mr. Jack Schwendener.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

After consideration of public comments, the CHP may adopt the proposal substantially as set forth without further notice. If the proposal is modified prior to adoption and the change is not solely grammatical or nonsubstantive in nature, the full text of the resulting regulation, with the changes clearly indicated, will be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

The CHP has made an initial determination that this proposed regulatory action: (1) will have no affect on housing costs; (2) will not impose any new mandate upon local agencies or school districts; (3) involves no nondiscretionary or reimbursable costs or savings to any local agency, school district, or state agency, or federal funding to the state; (4) will neither create nor eliminate jobs in the State of California nor result in the elimination of existing businesses or create or expand businesses in the State of California; and (5) will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The regulated community is encouraged to respond during the comment period of this regulatory process if significant impacts are identified.

COST IMPACTS ON REPRESENTATIVE PRIVATE PERSONS OR BUSINESSES

The California Highway Patrol is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

The California Highway Patrol has determined that the proposed regulatory action may affect small businesses.

ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(13), the California Highway Patrol must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the California Highway Patrol, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the California Highway Patrol, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action. The California Highway Patrol invites interested parties to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulations during the written comment period.

AUTHORITY

This regulatory action is being taken pursuant to Sections 2402 and 26103 VC.

REFERENCE

This action implements, interprets, or makes specific Sections 375, 25252, 25253, 25253.1, 25254, 25256, 25257.2, 25258, 25259, 25259.1, 25259.5, 25260, 25260.1, 25260.3, 25260.4, 25261, 25262, 25263, 25264, 25265, 25266, 25267, 25270, 25270.5, 25271, 25271.5, 25272, 25273, 25274, 25275, 25276, 25277, 25278, 25279, 25280, 25281 and 25282.

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL
S. H. PEREZ, Chief
Enforcement Services Division